

1/3/2011



Lead Forestry Technician (Assistant Fire Engine Operator) GS-0462-06
Notice of intent to fill from OCR

The USDA Forest Service - Savannah River (USFS-SR) expects to fill one GS-0462-06 Lead Forestry Technician (Assistant Fire Engine Operator) in the near future. This position will be advertised through AVUE <http://www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/applicant.html> under open and continuous vacancy announcement numbers **OCRP-AFEO-462-6G and OCRP-AFEO-462-DP**. Applicants must specify **New Ellenton, SC** under position location. We plan to request a referral list **February 11, 2011**. Interested applicants must submit their package prior to this date.

The fire program at Savannah River Forest is a 365 day per year suppression operation. The program applies 20-25 thousand acres of prescribed fire annually, mostly aviation ignition supported by ground operations, across the landscape to meet ecosystem management or hazardous fuels objectives. Production resources include 2 type III engines, 2 type VI engines, and 3 type II dozers. We also sponsor candidates for the National Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program on an annual basis. The dispatch center provides emergency response support, prescribed fire support, and remote worker tracking. Fire Management oversight on the unit is lead by 1 Fire Staff Officer, 1 Fire Management Officer, 2 Assistant Fire Management Officers (Fire & Fuels), and one Wage Grade Supervisor.

The incumbent may be required to obtain and hold a State Commercial Drivers License appropriate to the vehicle they are assigned. If a Commercial License is required, this position will be a Test Designated Position (TDP) under the Forest Service/Department of Transportation Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program. Driver will be subject to the requirements of the Department of Transportation drug and alcohol testing program.

Primary responsibility of the position is to serve as a lead wildland firefighter on a wildland fire engine or a prescribed fire crew. The position will provide daily leadership and training for crewmembers and ensuring that projects are completed in a safe and timely manner.

This position is a primary/rigorous firefighter position under the provisions of 5 USC 8336(c) (CSRS) and 8412 (d) (FERS) for Firefighter Retirement.

Taking and passing the WCT at the arduous level is a "condition of employment"

The Arduous fitness (Pack) Test consists of a three (3) mile hike, within 45 minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack.

This position has been identified as one of the key 13 fire management positions in the Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) Standard, and will be subject to minimum qualification standards (MQS). Qualification as a Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) and completion of S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior are the selective placement factors for this position. Applicants should attach a copy of their IQCS Master Record to their application to help verify qualification.

For more information please contact:

Chris Hobson
Fire Management Officer
803-725-0732
chobson@fs.fed.us

William Croll
Fire Staff Officer
803-725-3866
wtcroll@fs.fed.us



USFS-SR is operated by the USDA Forest Service to manage the natural resources of the Savannah River Site (SRS) owned by the US Department of Energy (DOE). Approximately 90% of the Savannah River Site's 198,344 acres near Aiken, South Carolina, are woodlands.

USFS-SR is a great place to work!! You will have the unique opportunity to work for an organization that combines ecosystem-based, natural resource management and engineering with a commitment to cutting-edge, research and education programs.

Although USFS-SR staff areas are similar to other Forest Service units, opportunities and challenges differ from those available on a typical national forest. Employees working in various departments gain experience equal to their counterparts on a national forest. Additionally, they face the challenges of working closely with another federal agency culture, with colleagues from other agencies, universities, corporations and organizations. These opportunities provide not only an interesting and stimulating work environment, but also add complexity to each job, helping to make the employee more competitive for career advancement.

- USFS-SR has a year-round prescribed fire and fire suppression programs. Firefighters apply prescribed fire to 15,000-25,000 acres annually. Fire personnel work closely with researchers to understand fire's role in the ecosystem and in firefighter health and safety studies. Personnel work cooperatively with the South Carolina Forestry Commission and a variety of SRS organizations in its prescribed fire and suppression program, including DOE - Savannah River (DOE-SR), Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, and Wackenhut Services, Inc.
- Wildlife scientists continue to develop new strategies and techniques to increase threatened, endangered, and sensitive species populations within SRS. Biologists and research personnel are reintroducing the native savanna under-story ecosystem. Longleaf pine is making a grand comeback at SRS! Habitat restoration, research applications, and the use of prescribed fire at SRS have increased the population of endangered Red-cockaded woodpeckers from 4 in 1985 to an estimated 200. Because SRS is a closed federal facility, it has become a de facto wildlife sanctuary for native plants and animals found at few other locations in the South.
- Forest products, averaging 66,000 CCF of timber per year to local markets, support ecosystem sustainability. This wide-ranging, full-service program since 1952 has created a diversity of habitats, including longleaf/savanna ecosystems. SRS's distinctive forested landscape as viewed from satellite photos has led many to call SRS the "green emerald" of South Carolina.
- Researchers at SRS, a National Environmental Research Park, work closely with the Forest Service Southern Research Station, as well as USFS-SR in large scale manipulative applied research. They also work with scores of regional universities, including the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. This federal facility, closed to public access, protects natural resource research areas and projects. Researchers work directly with National Forest System operations personnel to collaborate on solving on-the-ground natural resource problems. SRS is a biologically diverse landscape, from wetlands, including Carolina bays, to sandhills habitats, longleaf/savanna ecosystems, and a variety of age classes. The diversity of native flora and fauna, including one of the highest concentrations of reptile/amphibian species in the nation, is a researcher's dream.
- Engineers use dual frequency, survey-grade Global Positioning System equipment for road and boundary management. In addition to engineering tasks found on national forests, they work with

various SRS organization on environmental restoration projects, including phytoremediation, an irrigation of tritium-contaminated water.

- USFS-SR introduces students to careers in environmental science through the Environmental Science and Field Station. These students, from over two dozen regional Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other university programs, earn academic credit and gain field experiences.
- USFS-SR communicates with the public through a number of venues, including fire prevention presentations and Smokey Bear appearances at local schools and festivals, career fairs, and local community service events. Our electronic newsletter provides an update of accomplishments. Our partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation produces the turkey hunt for [mobility-impaired hunters](#) annually. We support the Federal Advisory Committee Act committee, [SRS Citizens Advisory Board](#), which advises and recommends to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on environmental remediation, waste management and related issues. Although located on a federal facility closed to the public, we are creative in reaching the public to share the SRS progress in environmental stewardship.

Local Area Information

USFS-SR is located in the Central Savannah River Area, which includes the cities of Aiken, South Carolina (15 miles from USFS-SR) and Augusta, Georgia (30 miles from USFS-SR). The Area's 2000 population was 477,000. Because the missions of the Savannah River Site are international in scope, the local communities include people from all races and cultures. The average temperature is 65 degrees and average annual rainfall is 47.5 inches. Houses in the area rent for \$200/month-\$1,000/month and sell for \$50,000-\$500,000 and are available in both urban and rural settings. Recreational opportunities abound in the area and include fishing, hunting, hiking, swimming, and biking. Atlanta, the Appalachian Mountains, and the Atlantic Ocean all offer excellent recreational opportunities, and are only 2 1/2 hours away by car. The area is rich with Revolutionary War and Civil War historic sites throughout the region.

Aiken, SC, a recent winner of the nationwide *All American City* competition, is a full-service community with one hospital, is home to the University of South Carolina-Aiken, and has a 2,000-acre public woodland in the city center. It is home to Hopeland Gardens, and the yearly "Triple Crown" horse races.

An influx of retirees and a continued love affair with the sporting life are credited with making the Aiken area "the hottest real estate market in the state". The 2009 median price of residential homes was \$117,000. Like all of us, they want a place with an identity, where people work and live and with things to do. Aiken is very fortunate to have the aesthetic beauty and charm of a small Southern city with a cosmopolitan flair.

✚ For more information about Aiken see below:

Aiken Chamber of Commerce (803) 641-1111

Web site: <http://www.aikenchamber.net>

Nestled along the banks of the Savannah River, **Augusta** is the second largest and oldest city in Georgia. You will enjoy the historic charm of the classic South with its tree-lined streets and majestic antebellum mansions. There are dozens of shops and restaurants, cultural and historic attractions in Augusta.

Local attractions include: the historic Augusta Canal, Museum of History, Augusta National Golf Club, Clarks Hill Lake, Confederate Powderworks, Cotton Exchanges, Enterprise Mill, Fort Discovery, Lake Olmstead Stadium, Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, Morris Museum of Art, Riverwalk, and Woodrow Wilson's boyhood home.

Augusta also has five major hospitals, three universities, an orchestra, and a minor league baseball team. It is host to the world-famous Masters Golf Tournament, high-speed power boat races and a major rodeo each year.

✚ For more information about Augusta, see below:

Augusta Chamber of Commerce (706) 821-1300

Website: <http://www.augustagausa.com>

✚ Contact <http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/srfs/srfs.htm> for more information about USFS-SR or please call (803) 725-2441.

For information about employment with this unit, please call (803) 725-0257 or visit the Federal Government official web site for jobs and employment at: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>. The usajobs website provides extensive information on

- Federal Employees Health Benefits program, with costs shared with your employer.
- Life insurance coverage.
- Long-term care insurance is offered and carried into your retirement.
- Federal Employees Retirement System. If you are transferring from another agency and covered by Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), you may continue in this program.
- Annual (vacation) leave.
- Sick leave.
- Paid federal holidays.
- Availability of alternative work schedule options.

Information is also available through the Avue Digital Services (ADS) website (<https://www.avuedigitalservices.com>.) Establish your user name and password, by entering a user name and selecting your password.

- If interested, please complete the attached outreach form and mail to:

USDA Forest Service-Savannah River
Attn. Chris Hobson
Fire Management Officer
P.O. Box 700
New Ellenton, SC 29809

- You may also send it electronically to chobson@fs.fed.us.

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

I would like to receive a copy of the vacancy announcement for the following position:

Position, Title/Series/Grade: **Lead Forestry Technician GS-0462-06**

(Please return this form by **February 11, 2011**)

Location: **USDA Forest Service – Savannah River, New Ellenton, SC**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Are you a current Federal Employee? Yes____ No____

If Yes, please provide your current:

Agency _____

Location _____

Title/Series/Grade _____

If not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, please indicate if you are eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities:

____ Persons with Disabilities
____ Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA)
____ Disabled Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability
____ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
____ Former Peace Corp Volunteer
____ Student Career Experience Program
____ Other (please explain) _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR VACANCY!